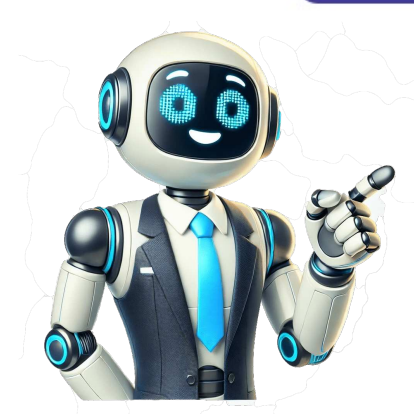I'm not a bot

Postal service exam 473

When you take Postal Service Exam 473, you can expect four distinct sections, all of which are designed to determine whether you have the skills to do the job for which you're applying and the personality to fit within the USPS culture. Part A gives you several addresses to compare. Your job is to determine whether they're the same or different. The differences can be big (such as a different city) or small, such as a typo or a ZIP code that's just one number off. Take the Address Checking test here. Part B gives you some standards USPS forms and asks you how to fill them out. Read the questions carefully to make sure you don't make any absent-minded mistakes. Take the Forms Completion test here. Part C is divided into two parts, coding and memory, and the former can help you immensely on the latter. In both parts, you place addresses into the correct code, with the only difference being you get a reference sheet for the coding section, but you have to work off your memory for the second section. Take the Coding test here. Part D is a personality test to help determine how well you might fit in with the USPS culture. For this part of the test, all you can do is be honest and answer all the questions to the best of your ability. Take the Memory test here. Find resources to prepare for the Postal Service exam, with study guides, practice tests, agency information and more. A job candidate with the US Postal Service may have to take the Postal Exam prior to being hired. For more information, see Tests.com's Postal Service Exam Guide. 474, 475, 476 and 477 Post Office Exams The Postal Service recruits through their eCareer online recruiting service. The 473 postal exam was replaced with a new series of Virtual Entry Assessment exams that focus on customer service and personal interaction strategies. The new entrance tests include the 474 / 475 / 476, and 477 Postal Exams are required for entry-level jobs including mail carriers, mail handlers, clerks, sales and distribution services. The Postal Service uses the following list of Virtual Entry Assessment exams for specific positions: 474 Virtual Entry Assessment MC Exam or Mail Carrier VEA Exam City Carrier, and AssistantCasual City Carrier,Rural Carrier, Associate, and Assistant 475 Virtual Entry Assessment MH Exam or Mail Handler VEA Exam Mail Handler, Assistant, and Casual 476 Virtual Entry Assessment MP Exam, Mail Processor VEA Exam or Processing Clerk VEA Mail Processing ClerkPSE Mail Processing ClerkCasual Mail Processing Clerk 477 Virtual Entry Assessment CS or Customer Service VEA Exam Sales Services & Distribution AssociatePSE Sales Service & Distribution AssociateCasual Sales Service & Distribution Associate To apply for postal positions, visit use our instructional guide and then click on the link at the end of the guide to go direct to the Postal Services' official online employment site. You can also look for openings at your local Post Office, Management Sectional Center (MSC), or General Mail Facilities in your area. Job opportunities are also advertised at local post offices and elsewhere including social media. After submitting your online application, you will receive an email notification with a link to the online exam. It must be completed within 72 hours from the time you receive the link. This site, along with our soon to be updated study guide, outlines the process and provides practice tests for you to take the official exam. A passing score of 70 percent or better on a postal exam will place the applicant's name on an eligible register for that job vacancy and you can use the same test and application information to apply for multiple jobs. To improve your postal exam scores, use the resources on this site and in the soon to be published 8th edition of Post Office Jobs. Vacancies in these positions — generally professional and administrative — are announced (advertised) first within the Postal Service. Postal employees who have the knowledge, education, credentials, and skills may apply for these openings. If there aren't any qualified internal applicants, the postal service will advertise the vacancies on their website and locally to the general public. All applicants must pass an entrance post office exam and/or an evaluation process to be placed on a register in numerical score order. Positions that don't require entrance exams Realistically, many professional jobs won't be filled internally. Few postal clerks and nonprofessional employees will have law degrees, engineering credentials, or doctorates for example. These post office jobs are generally advertised locally and on the USPS web site. You can also contact local (CSSD) Customer Service & Sales District personnel offices to identify upcoming job vacancies for your specialty. You can also call the local CSSD office's Human Resource Department to check on the status of your application or to follow up on interviews. You will be rated on a point system (maximum of 100 points) even without a written test. Therefore, your resume and Application For Employment (PS Form 2591) must be thoroughly completed and include all key information such as degrees, training, credentials, and detailed work experience. Only the top three candidates will generally be referred to the selecting official for consideration. Also, explore and apply for all vacancies in the government and private sectors to improve your chance of employment. Post office job applicants seeking entry level professional and administrative positions can apply for mail carrier positions and take the 474 VEA exam to get their foot in the door. Once hired, as vacancies open in their specialty such as accounting, budget, and other occupations, the Postal Service often advertises these positions first to current postal employees through internal job announcements. Once you get your foot in the door you can bid on these restricted announcements and the experience that you will gain from the entry level mail handling position will help you to better understand the postal system. In this test, you will need to use the provided guide to identify the correct route for each address. Start The 473 Exam & Hiring Program is your gateway to a postal service career. Entering the USPS Workforce: Get familiar with the essentials of the 473 Exam & Hiring Program, including preparation and eligibility. Scoring and Impact: Understand how scoring on the 473 Exam influences your USPS job prospects. After the Exam: Learn what the USPS hiring program entails post-exam. Navigate the 473 Exam & Hiring Program with confidence. As you navigate the journey of seeking employment with the United States Postal Service (USPS), one term you'll frequently come across is the 473 Exam. This pivotal assessment historically served as a gateway for numerous positions within USPS, assessing a candidate's proficiency in critical areas like address checking and form completion. While the 473 Exam no longer stands as a test for aspirants—with the baton passed to its successors, exams 474 to 477—it forms a part of the rich tapestry of USPS's robust hiring program. Before the exam was discontinued, if you were pursuing roles such as city carriers, mail processing clerks, or mail handlers, passing the 473 Exam was a non-negotiable step in your USPS career path. It was designed to sieve through applicants, ensuring only those suited for the demands and dictates of postal service roles made it through. The 473 Exam aimed to measure aptitudes that directly correlate with job performance at USPS. By evaluating skills crucial for day-to-day postal tasks, the USPS could maintain a workforce that was competent, efficient, and dependable—pillars that uphold the Postal Service's esteemed reputation. The Structure of the 473 Postal Exam When it was the gatekeeper test, the 473 Postal Exam challenged applicants across four sections. Each designed to probe a different skill set, ensuring that successful candidates possessed a well-rounded toolkit for the postal environment. Section A – Address Checking: This section assessed your attention to detail through the comparison of addresses. Section B – Form Completion: Here, your ability to accurately complete forms was put to the test, a routine task in postal operations. Section C – Coding and Memory: These tasks challenged your capacity to code and sort mail, as well as your memory retention—an essential element for all Postal Service employees. Section D – Personal Characteristics and Experience Inventory: This section did not have right or wrong answers but aimed to understand your personality and experiences correlating to the job. It was paramount to be well-prepared for each of these sections to maximize your chances of securing a position with USPS. For the uninitiated, the 473 Exam might seem like just another employment hurdle. However, it's imperative to recognize that the Postal Service sets clear-cut criteria for who can step up to the plate. If you sought to take the 473 Exam, here's what you were expected to fulfill: Age Requirement: Being at least 18 years old or 16 with a high school diploma was a must. Legal Requirements: Legal work status in the United States was non-negotiable, covering U.S. citizens and Green Card holders. Miscellaneous Requirements: You needed to pass a drug screening and declare any criminal history. This comprehensive checklist ensured that only eligible candidates moved forward in the USPS hiring process, streamlining the path to employ the nation's finest. To truly grasp the 473 Exam & Hiring Program, it's essential to demystify the USPS hiring program—a multistep process punctuated by milestones that usher candidates from hopeful applicants to USPS personnel. Start with the USPS eCareers Platform: Here, you create your profile and begin your job search. Application: Once you've found a role that fits, you apply. This step is crucial and free of charge. Assessment: In lieu of the 473 Exam, you now face one of the new Virtual Entry Assessment tests suited to your desired position. This sequence of steps outlines a clear path from the moment you decide to join USPS to the instance you're standing on the precipice of a fulfilling postal career. Back when the 473 Exam was the USPS's rite of passage, preparation was the key to unlocking postal employment. Tailored strategies and rigorous practice could elevate your performance, transforming an arduous challenge into an achievable milestone. Updated Study Guides: Investing in the latest preparatory material was as crucial then as it is now for the current exams. Practice Tests: Simulating the exam experience ironed out kinks in your preparation, bolstering your confidence and capability. Remember, although the 473 Exam has been phased out, the commitment to preparation remains unchanged for current USPS candidates. Whether you're grappling with its successors – exams 474 to 477 – the principles of diligent study and unwavering perseverance are timeless and universal. When it came to the 473 Exam & Hiring Program, understanding the intricacies of scoring and evaluation was instrumental in calibrating your aspirations to reality. The good news is, demystifying this component can empower you to aim your efforts precisely where they need to land. Your score on the 473 Exam didn't just reflect raw knowledge or skill, but rather a calibrated measure of your potential as a USPS worker. Here's what you would have needed to know: Scoring Range: Typically, the exam was scored on a scale from 70 to 100. Minimum Passing Score: You needed to secure at least a 70 to be considered for further steps. Penalty for Incorrect Answers: One-third of a point was deducted for each wrong answer in certain sections, amplifying the importance of accuracy. Validity Period: Once achieved, your score was valid for several years, allowing you to reapply for positions without needing immediate reexamination. The Spectrum of Scoring: It's worth noting that higher scores didn't just open doors—they virtually propelled you through them. Adapting these insights to the current assessment tests remains as relevant today as it was for the 473 Exam. With the 473 Exam successfully behind you, it wasn't time to rest on your laurels. The USPS hiring process continued to unfold, presenting new opportunities and challenges. Journey From Passing Score to Postal Employee Interviews: A stellar performance on the 473 Exam could lead to interviews, where your interpersonal skills and fit with the team were evaluated. Job Offers: Next, a job offer might have awaited—your golden ticket to postal employment. Orientation and Training: Your USPS career would commence with essential training programs, indoctrinating you into the postal way of life. This linear progression from passing the 473 Exam to gainful employment underlined the well-oiled machine that is the USPS hiring infrastructure. The road to USPS employment, including the 473 Exam & Hiring Program, was beset with challenges that might have felt daunting. Yet, equipped with the right knowledge and strategies, these hurdles could transform into mere stepping stones. Test Anxiety: Common amongst test-takers, harnessing techniques like mindfulness and structured studying could mollify your nerves. Time Management: During the test, pacing yourself was of the essence. Practicing under timed conditions prepared you for the real deal. The Memory Game: As the memory section could be particularly tricky, developing mnemonic devices and consistent practice were your greatest allies. Your approach to these common stumbling blocks could have been the difference between an also-ran performance and a triumphant success in the USPS hiring process. The Evolution of the Postal Exam: Moving Beyond 473 Even though the 473 Exam is part of USPS history, it's imperative to consider its evolution. Understanding the shift to the new exams can lead you through today's USPS hiring process with clarity and confidence. Transition to the Virtual Entry Assessment Program With the inception of the Virtual Entry Assessment program, several new tests—474, 475, 476, and 477—have replaced the 473 Exam. Exam 474: For Mail Carrier roles Exam 475: For Mail Handler positions Exam 476: For Mail Processing roles Exam 477: For Customer Service Clerical roles Armed with this knowledge, you're ready to cross swords with the most current USPS assessment tools. Conclusion: Your Path to a Postal Service Career The 473 Exam & Hiring Program was an integral part of the USPS's process to ensure that the most capable hands and minds serviced the nation's mail. Although the 473 Exam itself has made way for modernized alternatives, its legacy endures—setting a high standard for candidate assessment and signposting the USPS commitment to a distinguished and dedicated workforce. Embrace the wealth of resources available as you prepare for the new set of exams—your dedication could soon find you sorting, carrying, and processing the nation's narratives one delivery at a time. Postal Service employees deliver billions of mail items each day and providing the service to all Americans. Related skills and abilities are needed to provide this service. Checking addresses, sorting, and delivering mail are essential to move high volume of mail quickly and accurately. The Postal exam 473 identifies individuals with the right job-related experience, abilities, and personal characteristics. Our our free USPS 473 sample PDF contains simulated questions of the 473 exam. We have included some sample questions below to help get a better idea of the questions and answers which are included in our PDF guide and real test. ALL 4 Sections Including Sample Questions and answers 967 Downloaded the USPS postal 473 PDF sample In the actual test, you will receive instructions for completing each part. You must work on one part of test at a time. If you finish a part of the test before time is called, you are not allowed to proceed to another part of the test or return to a part of the test you previously completed. What parts are included in the Postal Exam? The table below describes the different parts of the test. Part Part Description Number of items Time allowed Subject covered A Address Checking 60 11 Min Determine whether two addresses are the same. B Forms Completion 30 15 Min Identify information for correctly completing forms. C Section 1 — Coding 36 6 Min Identify the correct code to assign for an address. C Section 2 — Memory 36 7 Min Memorize codes to be assigned to a range of addresses. D Personal Characteristics and Experience Inventory 236 90 Min Tendencies toward job-related characteristics and experience. Compare the address and zip code given to the correct address and zip code and determine what error, if any, is present. Correct Address Address to be Checked 224 Crestacre Ave Tyler, TX 75304-7723 224 Crestacre Pk. Tyler, TX 75304-7723 Chose one of the answers: No Errors Address Error Only Zip Code Error Only Both The Correct answer is 2 You will need a minimum score of 70. The acceptable test scores basic rating ranges from 70 to 100. Veterans' Preference Act of 1944 requirements may add points to the basic rating. Forms Completion Mr. Green would like to pick up his mail on January 12, 2019. Where would he indicate that with a check mark? Please select: Box 5b indicates that the customer would like to pick up her mail when she returns. A passing score on the Postal test qualifies you to continue in the hiring process but does not guarantee employment with the Postal Service. If you qualify, you will be listed on an entrance register — a resource to help us consider applicants for vacant positions. Your name appears on the register with other applicants who passed the test. Disabled veterans with passing scores are listed at the top of the register ahead of other applicants who passed the exam by law. Use this Code Guide and assign each address a Delivery Route: Address Delivery Route 1745 – 2199 Camden Way 1075 – 3000 Glenshaw St. 200 – 500 Flanders Blvd. A 501 – 855 Flanders Blvd. 2200 – 2550 Camden Way B 3001 – 4500 Glenshaw St. 14 – 275 Samuels Rd. 1300 – 1625 55th St. C Mail that does not fit into the address ranges listed above. D ■ What is the Delivery Route code for: 2585 Glenshaw St.? The correct answer is A ■ What is the Delivery Route code for: 1635 55th St.? The correct answer is D Because Postal Service Test 473 is an aptitude test rather than a facts-and-figures test, the best way to prepare is to practice. By taking a practice test like ours, you can get comfortable with the format of the exam and a general feel for the questions. On the real test, addresses, forms, codes and specific questions will be different from our sample test, but you'll be able to enter the real exam with a little more confidence, knowing you have a good feel for what to expect. Read More Disclaimer: The tests on this website are for entertainment purposes only, and may not accurately reflect the scores you would attain on a professionally administered test. © 2025. All rights reserved. All trademarks referenced herein are the property of their respective owners. Privacy Policy Terms & Conditions The Virtual Entry Assessment (VEA) process is an integral part of the postal service's online application process and identifies applicants best suited for the occupation applied for. Under the previous system you had to take a proctored exam at a designated facility in your area. Under this enhanced application system, you search for a position of interest online, register and create a profile, apply online, and shortly thereafter the postal service sends you a confirming email after their initial pre-screening with instructions. If your application is accepted, you will receive an email with additional instructions including a link to the online exam if required. All entry-level tests, including the 474, 475, 476 and 477 exams, are scheduled shortly after applying online. You will be scheduled to take one of the virtual entry assessment exams depending on the position applied for. The Postal Service will schedule you to take a virtual exam online; you have 72 hours to complete it after receipt of a test authorization email. Other occupations, such as corporate and professionals, don't require a written exam and are evaluated under the Postal Service's Rated-Application Examinations process. They are rated and hired on their prior work experience and education listed on their application and how well they do on the interview. Examinations cover the majority of entry level hiring although some offices also maintain custodial registers which, by law, are reserved for those with veteran's preference. The postal service no longer uses the 473 Battery Examination and applicants must take the new 474, 475, 476 and/or 477 Virtual Entry Assessment exam depending on the position applied for. The new VEA exams are more customer focused. The exams are administered using up to seven of the 8 sections listed (areas of concentration) in combination with the 474, 475, 486 and 477 VEAs: Work Scenarios – An assessment that includes questions focused on typical work situations and how you would react to them. There are four choices, and you are required to choose one that represents your most likely and least likely choice. Tell Us Your Story – An assessment that includes questions focused on your work experience and background. Describe Your Approach – An assessment of your personality traits.Moving the Mail – Determines your ability to identify details to correctly sort packages and letters.Motivation & Drive – A motivation test that reveals what satisfies you at work. These questions evaluate how you relate to various motivational sources.Customer Information Verification – Assesses your ability to notice details of printed information accurately and quickly. The test presents a person's name, old and new address; you must determine if the information is identical or not. Error Checking – This assessment determines your ability to match pairs of eight-digit numbers and determine if the pairs match or contain errors. Work Your register – This assessment determines your ability to make the correct change using the fewest currency items as possible. The USPS also administers other exams for motor vehicle and tractor trailer operators and some highly skilled maintenance positions such as building equipment mechanic, engineman, electronics technician, and general mechanic. All skilled maintenance positions require examinations. NOTE: You don't have to retake the exam for other similar positions after passing the test with a 70% score or higher. Your examination result is valid through the expiration date shown on your Notice of Result. If you are an applicant, your results will be maintained in your eCareer Candidate Profile and will be automatically included with your application if you apply for other USPS vacancies requiring this exam. If you are an employee, your test result may be valid for longer, based on your situation and in accordance with policy. CAUTION: Write down your eCareer username and password so that you will be able to use the test results for other positions. Many forget to write down this information and have a difficult time contacting the USPS to recover their username and password. Ability and skills tests (performance tests) are designed to predict future success, both in job training and job performance. The Postal Service uses these tests to obtain an indication of your potential to learn and perform particular job responsibilities. Skills tests measure specifically what you know about and can perform in a particular job—they test your mastery of tasks. Performance tests include a road test for operators of postal vehicles, keyboard test, and the test of strength and stamina for mail handlers. Some performance tests can be self-certified and are addressed in your initial application package. They will ask you how many words per minute can you type on the keyboard or if you can lift a package of a certain weight. It's important to give correct answers. For example, if you indicate you can type 30 to 40 words per minute and during the job your keyboard speed is much slower, that would be grounds for dismissal. The Postal Service uses the following list of Virtual Entry Assessment exams for specific positions: 474 Virtual Entry Assessment MC Exam or Mail Carrier VEA Exam City Carrier, and AssistantCasual City Carrier,Rural Carrier, Associate, and Assistant 475 Virtual Entry Assessment MH Exam or Mail Handler VEA Exam Mail Handler, Assistant, and Casual 476 Virtual Entry Assessment MP Exam, Mail Processor VEA Exam or Processing Clerk VEA Mail Processing ClerkCasual Mail Processing Clerk 477 Virtual Entry Assessment CS or Customer Service VEA Exam Sales Services & Distribution AssociatePSE Sales Service & Distribution AssociateCasual Sales Service & Distribution Associate Also, explore and apply for all job vacancies in the federal government. The 474 Virtual Assessment Examination covers the majority of entry level hiring although some offices also maintain custodial registers, which by law, are reserved for veteran preference eligibles. The USPS also tests for motor vehicle and tractor trailer registers and some highly skilled maintenance positions such as Building Equipment Mechanic, Engineman, Electronics Technician, and General Mechanic. All of the skilled maintenance positions are required to take an exam. It's often helpful to study with a partner, someone to read the question and check your responses. It can be a fellow worker, a spouse, or just a good friend. Try various study routines until you hit a combination that works. Try studying in 20 to 30-minute sessions, with 5-minute breaks in between, or stretch it out to hour intervals. A good study routine will improve your test scores. The following strategies will help you improve your grades. Use these strategies on the practice tests in this book and when you take your actual Postal Service exam. If you practice these techniques now, when you take the postal exam they will become second nature. Eliminate the answers in multiple-choice questions that make no sense at all. You can often eliminate half of the answers through this method. If you have to guess an answer, you improve your chances through the process of eliminationBe skeptical when an answer includes words like "always, never, all, none, generally," or "only." These words can be a trap. Only select an answer with these words in it if you are absolutely sure it is the right answer.If two answers have opposite meanings, take your time and look closer. Many times, one of the two is correct.One word can dramatically change the meaning of a sentence. Read each question word-for-word before answering.Don't let the test get the best of you. Build your confidence by answering the questions you know first. If the first question you read stumps you, skip it and go on to the next one. When you've completed most of the exam you can go back – if time permits – to the questions that you couldn't answer.Get plenty of rest the night before the exam. Also, consider applying for job vacancies in the federal government. Aptitude or even referred to as ability tests can be classified into two categories – speed tests or power tests. In the speed tests the questions you can answer correctly in the expected time. These are often used in administrative and clerical levels. On the other hand, a power test will presents smaller but more complex questions and they are focused on more professional or managerial levels. So, you can be a professional applying for a managerial position or entry level positions but maybe required to complete an aptitude test! Postal service workers are well respected workers and are a popular field in recruitment. You can be a postal service clerk selling stamps or delivering mail to homes and businesses or just busy with receiving and processing mail delivery. Either way the job has some great benefits and salary structure. The Postal exam is a competitive federal civil service exams and a minimum score of 70 out of 100 is required. A few things to keep in mind regarding the postal exam: If you don't achieve the score required, there is a 90-day wait period to retest and the higher you score, you are more likely to get selected There is a time limit and it is important you stick to the limit. Hence, it is essential you are well prepared. The hiring process for the postal services is similar to many other industries. In terms of testing, they use psychometric tests in the recruitment process. This is the way employers are able to assess your intelligence, skills and personality. Postal 473 exam includes 4 sections: Address Checking Forms Completion Coding and Memory Personal characteristic and inventory And recruiters can use the test results to identify your suitability for work in postal services. The tests are structured to accurately evaluate your capacity to work with others, process information and cope with the stresses of the job. They explore your capabilities, aptitude for the job, and to determine whether your personality fits in with the vision of the organization. The level of difficulty of the postal exam is determined by many factors. The testing is different for graduate or entry level roles than managerial posts. One, is it comes to you naturally but as these tests are systematically prepared there is defiantly a need for you to be prepared before going through aptitude tests. Practice, practice and some more practice! It is a fact that practice makes you perfect! You can try a live simulation or attempt a Postal exam 473 practice test online as well as it is necessary you take Postal exam 473 test preparation very seriously so see great results. Practicing different or similar types of aptitude tests can improve your performance as well as the results. It is recommended you familiarize yourself with concepts and the types of tests you might face. You should ensure you are well rested and are confident and clear with concepts. Treat the test like you would any other exam Like any other test preparing for an aptitude is necessary. Preparation makes you confident! While you are undertaking the test you must check how much time you will be spending on each question. This in order to prevent time wasting while getting stuck on a tough question. Every individual is unique and hold different set of skills and abilities. Such differences make aptitude test suitable for organizations to identify and determine the right candidate for the right job! Aptitude tests allow companies to make more informed decisions regarding the recruitment process. They are effective when used in conjunction with interviews and are most suitable for the vacancy. If you want accuracy in aptitude tests, you need to ensure the job profile and that testing questionnaire correlate to each other. As different tests reflect different skills and abilities!